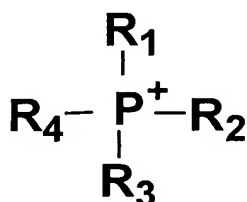CLAIMS

1. A polyester resin composition which is a resin composition comprising a polyester and a laminar silicate that is 60-100% modified by an organic phosphonium ion represented by formula (1) below, wherein the content of said laminar silicate is 0.01-20 wt% as inorganic ash and the terminal OH group content is 0.1-45 eq/ton.

$$R_4 - \overset{\displaystyle R_1}{\underset{\displaystyle R_3}{\overset{|}{\underset{|}{P^+}}}} - R_2$$

(1)

(wherein R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 each independently represent a C1-30 hydrocarbon group or a hetero atom-containing hydrocarbon group, and any from among R_1, R_2, R_3 and R_4 may form a ring.)

2. A polyester resin composition according to claim 1, wherein the polyester is one or more selected from the group consisting of polyethylene terephthalate, polytrimethylene terephthalate, polybutylene terephthalate and polyethylene-2,6-naphthalate.

3. A polyester resin composition according to claim 1, characterized in that the temperature for 5% weight loss of the laminar silicate modified with an organic phosphonium ion as measured with a Thermo Gravimetric Analysis at a temperature-elevating rate of 20°C/min in a nitrogen atmosphere is 310°C or higher.

4. A polyester resin composition according to claim 1, which comprises at least 50% of a laminar silicate with an interlayer distance d_B of 2.0 nm or greater calculated from the X-ray diffraction peak, and wherein the average number of layers N_B of the laminar silicate calculated by

the Scherrer formula based on the line diffraction peak
and its full width of half maximum intensity is no greater
than 5.

5. A polyester resin composition according to claim
1, characterized in that the calcium content of the
laminar silicate is no greater than 0.5% as the elemental
proportion measured by fluorescent X-ray analysis.

6. A polyester resin composition according to claim
1, characterized in that the quartz content is no greater
than 0.009 wt%.

7. A molded article composed of a polyester resin
composition according to claim 1.

8. A molded article according to claim 7, which is a
film.

9. A molded article according to claim 8, wherein
the diffraction peak intensity between layers of the
laminar silicate in X-ray diffraction in the cross-
sectional direction of the film is such that the
orientation factor fc in formula (5) below is no greater
than 0.8.

$$fc = \frac{3 <\cos^2 \phi>c - 1}{2}, \quad <\cos^2 \phi>c = \frac{\int_0^{\pi/2} Ic(\phi) \cos^2 \phi \sin \phi \, d\phi}{\int_0^{\pi/2} Ic(\phi) \sin \phi \, d\phi} \quad (5)$$

(wherein fc is the orientation factor, φ is the
declination in the in-plane direction of the film, and
Ic(φ) is the diffraction intensity for the declination φ)

10. A molded article according to claim 7, which is
a fiber.

11. A molded article according to claim 7, wherein
the average number of layers N_c of the laminar silicate is
no greater than 5, as calculated by the Scherrer formula
from the line diffraction peak and its full width of half
maximum intensity.

12. A process for production of a polyester resin

composition according to claim 1, characterized by production with a step of (A) polymerization of a dicarboxylic acid or its ester derivative with an aliphatic glycol, and/or a hydroxycarboxylic acid in the

5 presence of a laminar silicate that has been ion-exchanged with an organic phosphonium ion to 60-100% with respect to the ion exchange capacity, to obtain a polyester resin composition with a laminar silicate content of 0.01-30 parts by weight with respect to 100 parts by weight of the

10 polyester, and a step of (B) melt-kneading at a shear rate of 250/s or greater at a temperature above the melting point of the polyester.

13. A process for production of a polyester resin composition according to claim 12, wherein the polyester

15 resin composition containing the laminar silicate obtained by polymerization step (A) comprises at least 50% of a laminar silicate with an interlayer distance d_A of 2.0 nm or greater calculated from the X-ray diffraction peak, and the average number of layers N_A of the laminar silicate

20 calculated by the Scherrer formula based on the line diffraction peak and its full width of half maximum intensity is no greater than 7.